

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Queenstown Rosenwald School

other names Sunnyside School; AA-1000

2. Location

street & number 430 Queenstown Road

☐ not for publication

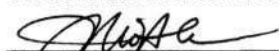
city or town Severn

☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).



10-21-09

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Maryland Historical Trust (MDSHPO)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

*Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County,
 Maryland, (1921-1932.*

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Rosenwald School Plan

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

N/A

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Education

Ethnic Heritage—Black

Social History

Period of Significance

1932-1955

Significant Dates

1932; 1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Variation on Julius Rosenwald Fund Plan #20

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- Other _____

Name of repository: _____

Queenstown Rosenwald School (AA-1000)
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres Relay, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	3	5	7	2	2	7	4	3	3	4	1	0	7
Zone	Easting			Northing											
2															

3															
Zone	Easting			Northing											
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherri M. Marsh with Joni Jones

Organization Anne Arundel County, Maryland

date 6/04; revised 10/09

street & number Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources, 2664 Riva Rd

telephone 410-222-7441

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland

zip code 21401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Anne Arundel County Board of Education

street & number 2644 Riva Road

telephone 410-222-5000

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland

zip code 21401

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

The newly restored Queenstown Rosenwald School is located in a low-density residential community in central Anne Arundel County, Maryland. It is a simple, one-story, gable-roofed, frame building. Tall banks of 9/9 windows characterize the building in a manner identifying it as a Rosenwald School. This school, like all Rosenwald Schools, was built according to a plan provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Queenstown Rosenwald School is an adaptation of Rosenwald Fund Floor Plan No. 20: Two Teacher Community School.

General Description:

Built in 1932, the Queenstown Rosenwald School is located in central Anne Arundel County in the non-incorporated, predominately African-American community of the same name. The area, formerly typified by small farms, is now largely residential. The school building stands on the east side of Queenstown Road, on a wide grassy lot, facing west/southwest. It is set back from the road approximately 100' feet. Several large trees shade a front parking area and horseshoe-shaped driveway.

The Queenstown School, in typical Rosenwald School fashion, is a relatively plain building. It is a one-story frame building with exterior walls sheathed with German siding. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles and displays minimal overhang. Cornice treatment consists of a plain verge board. Concrete blocks supplement the original concrete pier foundation. Foundation height varies in accordance with the lot's slope. The front wall rests on supports nearing 3 feet in height, while the rear wall stands slightly above grade.

In 1955 the school's gable-front, T-shaped plan, expanded with the construction of a 25' x 25' flat roof addition at the northwest corner. The addition features a tall brick stove chimney. Two chimneys, shown in historic photographs, were removed from the 1932 building at the time of the expansion. The addition provided space for indoor toilets and an oil-burning furnace.

Large bays of 9/9 sash windows characterize the building. The front projecting gable block features one bay containing four windows of this type. The rear wall originally contained two bays of five identical windows. Curiously, only 3 of the 5 windows were restored. The remaining frames survive in situ, behind plywood. The rear wall also contains a pair of substantially smaller 6/6 windows. These are centered between the two larger bays. These are not believed to be original and are also entombed behind plywood. Three individual 6/6 windows are found in the west and south walls of the 1950s addition.

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Queenstown Rosenwald School

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The building features two entrances. The principal entrance is situated on the south wall of the front block, near the intersection with the rear, lateral block. A shed-roofed porch hood protects the door, which is a modern replacement designed after historic photographs. This entrance is handicapped accessible and approached by a long ramp. The second entry is located in the north wall of the 1955 addition. It is reached by a small flight of concrete steps. The door is identical to the main entrance. These doorways open into either end of a 6'-wide corridor.

The building's interior is in excellent condition. The 2000 restoration revealed significant amounts of historic fabric entombed behind later material. Original window and door surrounds, chair rail, and wainscot survive in Classroom #2, the Community Room, and the hallway. The Community Room and Classroom #2 also retain their chalkboards. Unfortunately, except for a small amount of wainscot, very little historic trim survives in Classroom #1. Most of the 1932 wood flooring remains in place beneath modern carpet and vinyl, installed due to comply with childcare code requirements. Missing elements, such as classroom doors, were replaced with modern components, based on historic photographs.

With respect to plan, the building is divided into 3 principal rooms (2 classrooms and a community room), two bathrooms, and a furnace room. All rooms are accessed via a center hall. A cloakroom, located between Classrooms #1 and #2 was later converted into a small office and library, and later a faculty restroom. Except for a chase for plumbing and a support column, partitions are now removed and the former cloakroom's space incorporated into Classroom #2. This alteration makes Classroom #2 approximately 10' longer than Classroom #1. A wood stove, situated along the rear (east) wall, originally heated each of the classrooms. The Community Room, located in the front projection, measures 18' x 24'. This space remained unheated until the 1950s.

In 2000 the Queenstown Rosenwald School was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust. The building, owned by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, is under long-term lease to the Severn Improvement Association, which uses the building a daycare facility and a community center.

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AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Section 8 Page 1

Anne Arundel County, Maryland
County and State

Note: This individual nomination follows a Multiple Property Documentation form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, (1921-1932)*. Please refer to that document for a detailed exploration of the history and significance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund School Building program and information on African-American education in Anne Arundel County prior to desegregation.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Queenstown School meets Registration Requirements specified in the Multiple Property Documentation form titled *Rosenwald Schools in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, (1921-1932)*.

Built in 1932, the Queenstown Rosenwald School is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School, and as such is affiliated with what is considered the most important advance in African-American education in the southern states prior to desegregation. These schools were constructed with financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund; a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century. Between 1917 and 1932 the Julius Rosenwald Fund assisted in the construction of 5,357 schools for African-American in the rural south. These Schools were built according to plans provided or approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Plans were cost-efficient and easy to construct, yet remarkably emphasized health and safety concerns and embodied the latest ideas in educational building design. Two-hundred-and-ninety-two Rosenwald Schools were built in Maryland, 24 of which were erected in Anne Arundel County. Queenstown is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools surviving in Anne Arundel County (1). In 2000 it was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Period of Significance, 1932-1955, begins with the date of the school's construction and ends with its closure and consolidation.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Julius Rosenwald Fund

The Queenstown Rosenwald School is architecturally and socially significant as example of a Rosenwald School. As such, it is associated with one of the most pivotal advances in Black education prior to school desegregation. . The importance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program to African-American education cannot be overstated.

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AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School
Name of Property

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Section 8 Page 2

The construction of more than 5,000 elementary schools in rural areas of 17 southern states enabled tens of thousands of African American children previously educationally disenfranchised or underserved to acquire a basic education in a state-of-the-art facility (2).

Queenstown, like all Rosenwald Schools, was built with both financial and technical assistance provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. This private foundation was created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur and philanthropist who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century. While Rosenwald generously supported a wide variety of charities, Rosenwald showed particular concern for African American causes (3).

Biographers state that Julius Rosenwald's interest in African-American causes in general and education in particular derived from his admiration and subsequent affiliation with Black educator and Tuskegee Institute founder, Booker T. Washington. The two men first met in 1911 and in 1912 Rosenwald became a trustee and financial supporter of the Tuskegee institute. In 1917 Rosenwald inaugurated his personal campaign to improve the quality and increase the availability of educational opportunities for African-Americans in the rural South. The Julius Rosenwald Fund was created in that year (4).

Between 1917 and 1932 the Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program assisted in the construction of 5,357 schools for African American students in 17 southern states (5). The Queenstown School is one of 10 Rosenwald Schools surviving in Anne Arundel County. In 2000 it was restored in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

History of Queenstown

From 1932 to 1955 the Queenstown Rosenwald School provided elementary education to the children of this the unincorporated, largely African-American community. This once rural, now residential, neighborhood is named for Ed and Charity Queen. In 1880 the Queens moved from White Marsh, near Bowie, Maryland to the area then known as Snowdentown. In little more than a generation, Queen's descendents and relatives became the region's dominant family and the small farming community assumed the name of Queenstown (6). The geographically distinct area remains known by this name though legally it is part of the town of Severn.

Prior to 1919 Queenstown lacked a school. Furnace Branch, approximately a 3.5-mile distance, was the closest school open to African American children. Oral and written history indicates many Queenstown children traveled this distance on foot (7). In 1919 the Anne Arundel County Board of education provided funds for instruction at Queenstown. The first school operated in a

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Queenstown Rosenwald School
Name of Property

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small building adjacent to and owned by the Metropolitan Church. A Mrs. Knight was the first teacher and paid \$40.00 per month. Mrs. Margaret Burrell French succeeded Mrs. Knight in 1923 (8).

The demand for education grew with the community. A second teacher, Mrs. Helen Browne, was hired in 1928. This only addressed half of the problem as the old school building was beyond its carrying capacity. In 1931, to address this situation Anne Arundel County Board of Education approved \$1,500 to expand the building (9). The planned expansion did not take place.

Starting in 1928 the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which up to that date had assisted the County in the construction of 21 one- or two-room Black schools, increasingly rejected funding requests for small schools, in favor of supporting larger consolidated buildings. For reasons that remain unclear, Anne Arundel County pursued the construction of white consolidated schools, but made no serious efforts to consolidate Black schools until the 1940s. In 1931, however, the Rosenwald Fund briefly reversed its policy and increased funding for small schools. Anne Arundel County took advantage of this, applied and received approval from the Rosenwald Fund for assistance buildings two new schools. In 1932 new schools were built at Furnace Branch and Queenstown. These were the last two Rosenwald Schools constructed in Anne Arundel County (9).

Queenstown Rosenwald School History

The new Queenstown School was constructed on a 1.5-acre lot provided by Oscar "Dickie" Gaither for the new school. This donation satisfied the Rosenwald Fund stipulation that the African-American community contribute to the cost of the school's construction. The Gaither's were an important local family. Oscar Gaither's parents were instrumental in the organization, design and construction of the local church (10).

The new 3-room school was finished in 1932 and provided instruction for grades 1-7 (11). The Queenstown School features a plan unique among Anne Arundel County Rosenwald Schools. It features three rooms-- two rooms and a community room-- instead of the typical 2-room configuration. The Queenstown School represents a variation of Rosenwald Fund plan *Two Teacher Community School: Plan 20*. Clear differences exist between the published Rosenwald Fund plan and the Queenstown School. This deviation is not uncommon in Anne Arundel County. In fact most Anne Arundel County Rosenwald Schools were built with according to a design known as the "Fox Plan" after Anne Arundel County Superintendent, George Fox. The Fox Plan was developed in consultation with and approved by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, but was not published in the Fund's *Community School Plans* (12).

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AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School

Name of Property

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Interviews with former students and teachers indicate that only two rooms were used for instruction. Classroom #1, located at the building's northwest corner served as the primary school, while Classroom #2, located tangent to the first room, was occupied by grades 5-7. Wood-burning stoves provided heat. Parents and teachers donated the firewood. In the 1930s and 40s students paid "fire dues" to purchase wood and pay for janitorial services. The front (west) room received relatively little use. This originally unheated space is designated on Rosenwald Fund plans as Community Room, and oral history indicates it was used in this capacity as well as for the detention of "bad children" (13).

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against racial segregation and the educational policy of "Separate but Equal." Queenstown Elementary School closed in 1955, but not due to the ramifications of court-ordered desegregation. Despite, or arguably, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling, schools in Anne Arundel County were not thoroughly desegregated until 1966 (14). Many Black schools, however, were consolidated. Student populations of Queenstown, Severn and Harmans elementary schools were consolidated into a new 5-room facility in Harmans. The Queenstown Elementary School was renamed Sunnyside School and used as a special education facility. At this time the building was expanded in order to provide space for indoor toilets and a furnace room.

In 1973 Anne Arundel County Board of Education planned to sell the Queenstown School to a developer who intended to construct apartments. The community vociferously objected to losing this important and much beloved community symbol. The Board of Education relented and leased the property to the Severn Improvement Association. This local, activist organization operated the building as a community center. The area's Masonic Lodge used the building for their meetings and events.

In the 1990s the Severn Improvement Association spearheaded an effort to secure financing to restore the school. Arundel Community Development Services provided most of the project's funding. Restoration was completed in 2001. The building now serves as a daycare facility and community center.

Summary

Queenstown Rosenwald School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. With respect to Criterion A, it is associated with the important theme of African American education prior to desegregation. Furthermore, the school's construction also represented an important event in the development of this rural African American community.

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Under Criterion C, the building achieves architectural significance as a restored and intact example of a Rosenwald School. It embodies the distinctive features associated with this building type. For more than 70 years the Queenstown Rosenwald School has played an important educational and civic role in the life of the Queenstown residents. It continues to serve as a stabilizing force and as a symbol of a cohesive community.

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AA-1000
Queenstown Rosenwald School

Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Section 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References:

- 1) Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives: 1917-1948. Box 339. Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2) Embree, Edwin R., Investment in People, The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York (1949).
- 3) Ibid.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Ibid.
- 6) *Discovering Our School Community 1951-53*. Unpublished research conducted by elementary school students and compiled by the Anne Arundel Retired Teachers Association. On file Anne Arundel County Public Library, West Street, Annapolis, Maryland.
- 7) Ibid.
- 8) Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Minutes of the Building Commission 1931, Maryland State Archives.
- 9) Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives :1917-1948. Box 339. Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 10) *A Century of Memories.*, 2000 Directory of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church.
- 11) Personal Communication with Mrs. Sylvia Garrison, May 17, 2004. Mrs. Garrison is a former Queenstown School student as well as the daughter of Oscar Gaither, who donated the land for the school.
- 12) Julius Rosenswald Fund Archives: 1917-1948. Box 339.
- 13) Personal Communication with Mrs. Sylvia Garrison.
- 14) Brown, Philip., A Century of Separate But Equal: Education in Anne Arundel County, Vantage Press, New York (1988).

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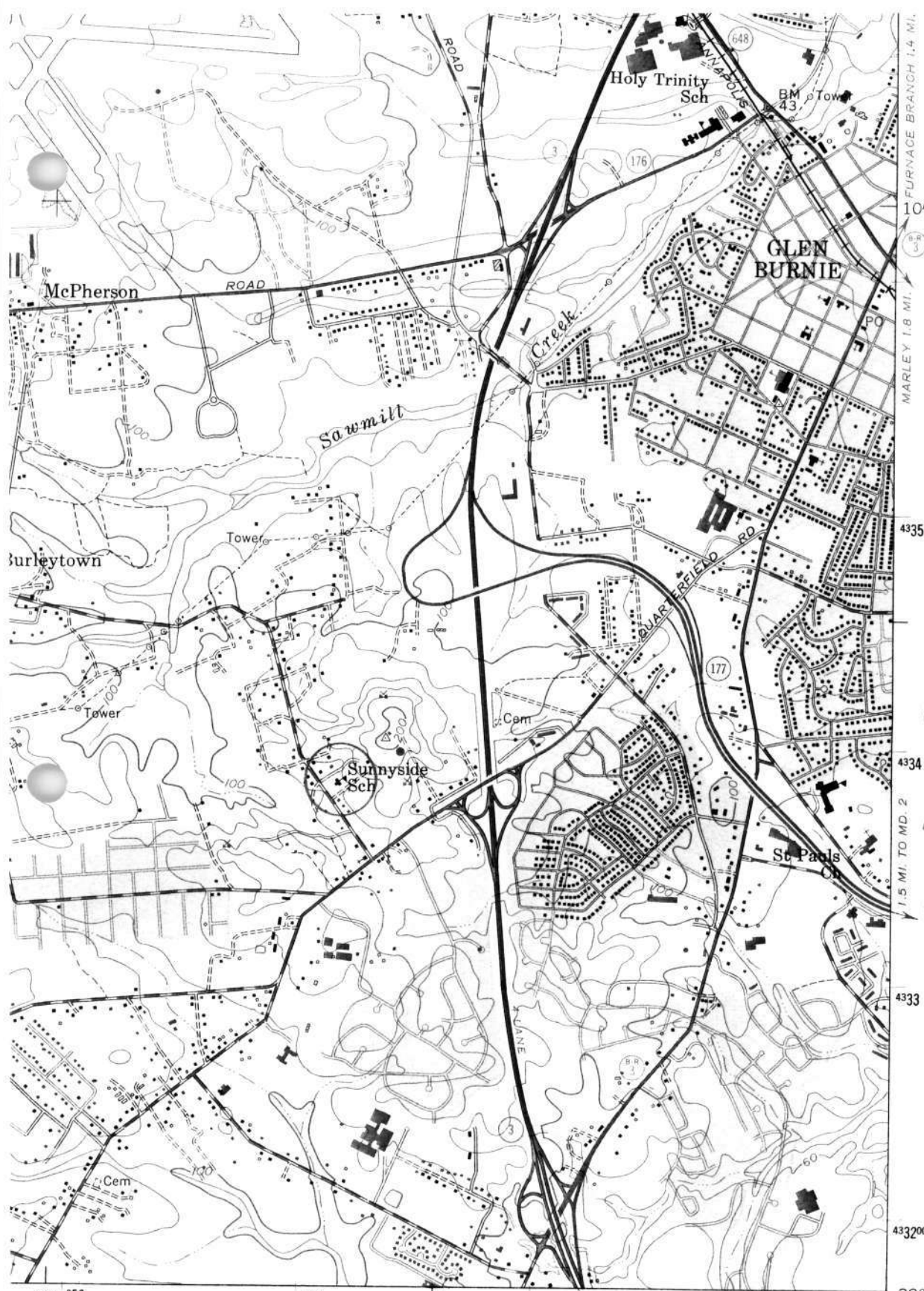
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, 1.5 acres, is identified as Parcel 581 on Anne Arundel County Tax Map 15, and described among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Liber 2694, folio 302.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property represents the single lot historically associated with the resource.



FURNACE BRANCH 1.4 MI.
MARLEY 1.8 MI.

AA-1000
QUEENSTOWN
ROSENWALD
SCHOOL
ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY, MD
18-357227-
4334107

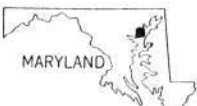
40' 356 357 359000m E 76°37'30" 39°07'30"

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1984
MILLERSVILLE 4.9 MI.
11 MI. TO U.S. 50

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- () Interstate Route () U.S. Route () State Route



RELAY, MD.

(ROUND BAY)
5662 11 SE



AA-1000

QUEENSTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD.

PKURTZE 10/09

MD SAGD

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

MD-AnneArundelCounty-QueenstownRosenwaldSchool-

0001.TIF

1 OF 8



AA-1000

QUEENSTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

P KURTZE 10/09

MD SHPO

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

MD - Anne Arundel County - Queenstown Rosenwald School

0002.TIF

#2 OF 8

0002



AA-1000

QUEENSTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

ANNE ARUNDEL Co., MD

P. KURTZE 10/09

MD SHPO

VIEW FROM SOUTH

MD- AnneArundelCounty- Queenstown Rosenwald School-

0003.TIF



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel Co., MD

P. Kurtze, 11/09

MD SHPO

View from Southeast

MD - Anne Arundel County, - Queenstown Rosenwald
School - 0020.TIF

#4 of 8

0020



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, MD

P. Kurtze, 10/09

MD SHPO

West Classroom, facing NW

MD - Anne Arundel County - Queenstown
Rosenwald School - 0011.TIF

5 of 8

0011



AA-1000

QUEENSTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

P. KURTZE, 10/09

MD SHPO

West Classroom, Facing SW

MD - Anne Arundel County - Queenstown
Rosenwald School - 0019.TIF

#6 OF 8

0019



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel Co., MD

P. Kurtze, 10/09

MD SHPO

North classroom, facing SW

MD - Anne Arundel County - Queenstown
Rosenwald School - 0016.TIF

7 of 8

0014



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

Anne Arundel County, MD

P. Kurtze 10/09

MD SHPO

Hallway, facing N

MD - Anne Arundel County - Queenstown
Rosenwald School - 0018. TIF

8 of 8

0018





AA-1000

QueensTown Rosenwald School

430 QueensTown Road Severn AnneArundel CO. MD

MAIN Entrance, No. side facing North

photo by Sheri MARSH, MAY 2004

Negative at MARionet SHPO

Photo 2 of 6 SA DANXAN NOV-1 2002



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

430 Queenstown Road, Severn, Anne Arundel Co, MD

Camera Facing SE

Photo by STERN MAPSH

MAY 2004

5.65.24 000X00 NINE 1 2043

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Photo 3072

003

494



AA 1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

436 Queenstown Road, Severn, Anne Arundel Co., MD

HALL

photo by Sherril MARSH

MA-1 2006.65 BA DANXAN NNN- 1 2043

Negative at MARYland SHPO

photo 4 of 8

001

486



AP 1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

430 Queenstown Road, Severn, Anne Arundel CO., MD
Hall

Camera facing roughly South

photo by Sherry L. ARS/H

MAY 2004

Negative at Maryland SHPO

photo 5 of 8

004

489



AA-1000

Queens town Rosenwald School

430 Queenston Road, Severn, Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Classroom #2

photo by SHERRI MARSH

MAY 2004 5.65 BA JANX4N NNN 0 2043

negative at MARYLAND STR

Photo 6 of 6

006

491



AA-1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

430 Queenstown Road, Severn, Anne Arundel Co., MD

Class Room #1

Photo by Shepp MARS

MAY 2004

5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 2043

Negative at MARYLAND SHPL

Photo 7 of 8

007

488



AA 1000

Queenstown Rosenwald School

430 Queenstown Road, Severn, Anne Arundel CO, MD

Community Room

photo by Sherri MARSH

MAY 2004

5.65 54 09N 76.2043

negative at MARYLAND SHPO

Photo of 8

302

187

AA-1000

Built 1932

Queenstown School

Severn, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Private

Built in 1932, the Queenstown School (a.k.a Sunnyside School) is significant as an example of a Rosenwald School, and as such represents a landmark era in black education in the period before federal support of local education. Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck & Company in the early 20th century.

Between 1917 and 1932, the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,300 schools for blacks in the rural south. Approximately 292 were built in Maryland. Of that number 24 were constructed in Anne Arundel County. Queenstown School is one of only five known surviving Anne Arundel County examples.

This school, as with all Rosenwald Schools, was built according to a standardized plan provided by the Rosenwald Fund. These cost and space efficient plans were developed for the Fund by leading educational experts and represented state of the art designs. As a result they were often employed in the construction of contemporary white schools and in schools after the Fund ceased operation.

Built in 1932, the Queenstown School had two classrooms and a library. After 1954, the building was used as a special education school for black children. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's order to integrate the nation's public schools, the Queenstown School was closed in 1966 and, subsequently, became the Queenstown Community Center.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-1000

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Queenstown School -preferred

and/or common Sunnyside School / currently Severn Improvement Association Building

2. Location

street & number 430 Queenstown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Severn ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Anne Arundel County Board of Education

street & number 2644 Riva Road telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code: Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 2694

street & number Church Circle folio 302

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1000

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in 1932, the Queenstown School (a.k.a. Sunnyside School) sits on the north/northeast side of Queenstown Road. The building sits on a wide grassy lot and sits back from the road approximately 100'. A few medium-sized trees and bushes are placed around the building, while the lot's perimeter is lined by a heavy stand of comparatively mature deciduous trees. A paved horseshoe-shaped driveway that begins and terminates on the public road runs behind the building. In front are the remains a deteriorated poured-concrete play area.

Facing approximately south, the Queenstown School is a plain, one-story, frame building. Walls of this basically T-shaped building are sheathed in German siding and rest on a concrete block foundation. Foundation height changes to accommodate the lot's slope. Front walls sit on a foundation that is nearly 3' in height, while the rear wall is placed only slightly above grade.

The building features three distinct sections, two of which are original. First period construction include a long (approximately 60') rear portion that runs in an east/west orientation. Centered on this and projecting at a right angle from it, is an approximately 20' gable-front block. The third section is small and flat-roofed, and is situated in the southwest intersection of these two original portions. Clear breaks between its concrete foundation and that of the main portion of the building identify this portion as a later addition. Its siding, however, is identical to that covering the main building and suggests the entire building has been resided. The roof of all three blocks is sheathed with modern composition shingles. A tall brick interior stove chimney is located on the roof of the addition. With respect to the original portions, the roofline is flush on the gable-ends and accented by a narrow verge board. Eaves of the longitudinal walls overhang slightly and have a plain cornice.

As with all Rosenwald Schools, windows are the most dominant characteristic of this building. The projecting front wall of the front block contains a continuous bay of four, tall, 9/9 sash windows. Plain wide boards serve as both mullions and the surround. Rear wall fenestration is divided into three groups. On either end of the rear wall is a bay of five windows. Rear wall window surrounds match those seen on the building's front section, but the rear openings are considerably larger than those in front are. Windows were originally 9/9 sash types, but many are now boarded over, including all windows in the eastern-most bay. Centered between the two main bays is a pair of substantially smaller windows that are now boarded over. Windows in the addition are the smaller than elsewhere on the building. Three individually placed 6/6 windows are found in both the south and the west wall of the addition.

Two entrances are present, each of which is approached by a small flight of concrete steps. The main entrance is located on the west wall of the front block, near the intersection with the long rear section. An elongated shed-roofed porch hood protects the doorway. The second entrance is located on the east wall of the addition, near the intersection with the rear block. The doors in both of these entrances are modern replacements.

The building's interior was extensively remodeled. If any historic interior finish survives, it is now covered by modern material.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-1000

Period	Areas of Significance----Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932

Check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Queenstown School and the Julius Rosenwald Fund

The Queenstown School is an architecturally significant example of a Rosenwald School design, and as such represents a landmark era in black education in the period before federal support of local education. Rosenwald Schools were built with matching funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was a private foundation created by and named for the Chicago entrepreneur who directed the booming growth of Sears, Roebuck and Company in the early 20th century. Between 1917 and 1932 the Rosenwald Fund helped build over 5,300 schools for blacks in the rural South. Approximately 292 Rosenwald Schools were built in Maryland, of that number 24 were constructed in Anne Arundel County.¹ Queenstown School was built in 1932 at the end of the Fund's school construction program. It is one of the last two Rosenwald Schools built in the county (The other, built at Furnace Branch, is no longer standing.) This school, as with all Rosenwald schools, was built according to a standardized plan supplied by the program. Queenstown School is based on the *Two Teacher Community School: Floor Plan no. 20*.

The importance of the Rosenwald Fund's school building program to black education can not be overstated. School plans were developed for the Fund by leading educational experts and distributed to the various locales. These state of the art plans reflected the latest theory in spatial organization, and placed a premium on sanitation and ease of maintenance. As a result, these plans were sometimes employed in the construction of contemporary white schools, and in schools built after the Fund ceased to finance school construction. The impact of the Rosenwald Fund extends beyond black education and the time frame in which it operated.

(please see continuation sheet)

The Julius Rosenwald Fund

Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932) stands out as one of America's most notable businessmen and philanthropists. At age twenty-five this son German Jewish immigrants acquired partial ownership in Sears, Roebuck and Company. Under his management the company became a mail-order merchandising phenomenon. Rosenwald's philanthropy kept well apace of his amassing fortune and, according to estimates, by the time of his death in 1932 he had given away between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000. More than \$20,000,000 of this went to black causes.²

According to his biographers, Rosenwald was a great admirer of Booker T. Washington, and was deeply impressed by Washington's climb from poverty to educational leadership. After meeting Booker T. Washington and subsequent visits to the south, Rosenwald, appalled by the condition of southern blacks, made African-American causes in general, and black education in particular, a foremost concern. Rosenwald established an independent foundation with full time administrators to manage his charities. The work of the Julius Rosenwald Fund in southern education stressed four programs: the provision of library service, the education of teachers, the development of centers of higher learning, and foremost, the school building program.

The school building program was done in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the various southern states, and due to racist attitudes, Rosenwald's largess was not always welcome. For example, in Mississippi Rosenwald Schools were the target of Ku Klux Klan attacks. In other locations members of the school board opposed black school construction. Even in Anne Arundel County, where School Superintendent George Fox's commitment to improving the quality of black education was well known, politics played a role in the building of black schools. According to a 1931 letter, a proposed Annapolis school failed to receive Rosenwald funds due to construction delays. In this letter, a county official named Huffington attempts to have funding restored with the following explanation. "Take the Annapolis situation. We could not do a thing until the bonds were approved. Then it was out of the question of Mr. Fox doing anything on the colored work until he got the white work straighten out."³

Rosenwald was adamant that his efforts only inspire and supplement state initiatives, not replace them. Rosenwald encouraged government and community to work together to address social problems. Furthermore, Rosenwald Fund monies were very regulated and certain very definite conditions had to be met before the Fund would become involved in the construction of a school. First, a county had to apply for funding and agree to abide by the conditions set forth by the Fund.

Ideally, a Rosenwald school represented a common effort by the given Board of Education, and both the white and African-American communities. The state and county always bore most of the cost of the building and had to agree to maintain the new building as a regular part of the public-school system. The white community was solicited for financial contributions, or gifts of land and supplies. The black community also made gifts of money, labor and supplies. Records indicate that in Anne Arundel County costs were born entirely by the state, black community and the Rosenwald Fund, with no support coming from the white community.⁴

The contributions of the Fund ranged from a minimum of \$200 for a one-teacher school to \$2,600 for a six-teacher building. While at the high school level, the Fund contributed up to \$6,000 for a twelve-teacher structure. In terms of percentages, the Rosenwald Fund's contribution toward the total cost of a school was comparatively small. The Fund, however, provided more than money and architectural plans. Rosenwald's reputation and record of accomplishment secured the trust of the African-American community who, knowing their resources would be used directly for the good of their neighborhood, were inspired to give money and labor. The result was a donation of resources Boards of Education usually felt compelled to accept. The Rosenwald Fund served not only as a funding source, but also as an important mediator between the black community and the generally all-white Boards of Education.

Between 1917 and 1929, about sixty percent of the schools constructed were of the one- and two-teacher type. Queenstown School is an example of the two-teacher type. In Maryland, and reportedly other states, a number of the two-room plan buildings were built according to a modified Rosenwald design created by Anne Arundel County Superintendent of Schools, George Fox. Rosenwald Fund records mention approving the use of "The Fox Plan" but unfortunately they do not specify how it differs from the Fund's two-teacher version. Queenstown School probably represents the Fox Plan because it does not exactly match the published Rosenwald two-teacher design.

After 1929, in an acceptance of the trend toward school consolidation, funding was gradually withdrawn from small schools and emphasis switched to larger buildings. By the time the Fund's school building program ended in 1932, it had helped to build 5,357 public schools, industrial shops, and teacher's homes in 883 counties of 15 southern states at a total cost of \$28,408,502.

Rosenwald Schools

In 1920 the Rosenwald Fund established an office in Nashville, under the direction of S. L. Smith, an architect with experience in school administration. Smith established an architectural department to research and draw school designs. The input of leading educational theorists was solicited in developing school plans. Rosenwald school plans represented the state-of-the-art in American school architecture. Boards of Education were not allowed to deviate from the Fund's plans and specification without obtaining permission.

Designs were simple and efficient, and omitted corridors where possible to save on costs and maximize useable space. Buildings were one-story in height, both because of cost consciousness, and to facilitate evacuation in the event of fire. The buildings were generally siding with weatherboard nailed over diagonal substrate. Exterior color schemes were white trimmed in gray, gray trimmed in white, or nut brown trimmed in white or cream.

Since there was seldom electricity available, design and placement maximized natural light. Groupings of tall double-hung sash windows are characteristic of all Rosenwald designs. Buildings were oriented with the points of the compass and the plan designed so that every class room would receive either east or west light. Color schemes, seat arrangements and even window shades were specified to make the fullest use of sun light.⁵⁶

The Fund demanded that interiors not be left unpainted. This was for sanitary, aesthetic, and maintenance reasons, but mainly because "It will materially increase the amount of light in the classroom." The Fund permitted only two interior paint schemes.

Color Scheme No. 1: Cream ceiling, buff walls and walnut wainscoting or dado

Color Scheme No. 2: Ivory cream ceiling, light gray walls and walnut stain wainscoting or dado

Contractors were warned not to mix lamp black with white paint in order to make gray as such a mixture would reflect very little light. As a result of these precautions, Smith noted proudly that all Rosenwald designs provided natural light well in excess of the minimums proposed by the National Education Association's Committee on Schoolhouse Planning and Construction.

Interior featured a sub-floor topped by oiled wooden flooring, wooden tongue-and-groove wainscoting and plaster walls. Desk arrangements were provided. For example, in a 22' x 30' classroom, desks were to be arranged in five rows of nine desks. Each room had a blackboard set at a scientifically determined height. Because chalk dust was known to be a health detriment, chalkboard designs included chalk trough with a wire net covering. This prevented erasers from absorbing and spreading chalk dust.

Many requirements were associated with the placement and maintenance of privies. The same is true regarding the drinking water supply system.

Rosenwald Fund administrators strictly enforced design guidelines. Regular construction progress reports and photographs were required, and failure to meet deadlines or guidelines resulted in the forfeiture of Rosenwald support.

Summary

The Julius Rosenwald Fund's school building program officially ended in 1932. By that time almost 15,000 teachers were instructing over 650,000 black children in 5,357 Rosenwald-sponsored schools throughout the South. The buildings could accommodate more than two-fifths of the African-American children enrolled in school. The number of buildings aided by the Fund exceeded the total number of schools of every sort that existed for blacks in the southern states at the beginning of the Fund's program. The value of these schools in 1932 was more than twice that of all black rural-school property at the beginning of the effort in 1917. One in every ten Rosenwald schools provided high school-level instruction. African-American high school enrollment in the South increased from few thousand in 1920 to approximately 125,000 in 1931, an increase directly attributable to the Rosenwald building campaign.⁷

Rosenwald schools set an example of beauty, efficiency and sanitation. During this era Rosenwald Schools set the standard for all school construction. Rosenwald plans were used for more than 15,000 white schools which otherwise had no relation to the Fund. The success of the Fund was not so much in the amount it contributed or the number of schools it helped to build, but in intangibles that can not be measured. Mr. Rosenwald's biographers believed the Fund's success was primarily expressed in the effect of increased literacy in the lives of African-Americans, through the opportunities that education provided.⁸ Arguably, the Rosenwald Fund's school building program represents the most important movement in black education prior to the court-ordered desegregation of schools in the 1960s.

Queenstown School

Built in 1932, the Queenstown School had two classrooms and a library. After 1954, the building was used as a special education school for black children. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's order to integrate the nation's public schools, the Queenstown School was closed in 1966 and, subsequently, became the Queenstown Community Center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-1000

1. Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives (1917-1948) box 339. Fisk University Special Collections Library, Nashville, Tennessee.
2. Edwin Embree. *Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund*. Harper & Brothers, New York, NT, 1949, p.15.
3. Letter from J. Walter Huffington to W.F. Credle, February, 1931. Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, box 339, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
4. Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.
5. *Community School Plans*, published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund Southern Office, Nashville, Tennessee, 1931 edition.
6. Thomas W. Hanchett, *Rosenwald Schools in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 1987*. At Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission.
7. Embree, 1949.
8. Ibid.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Anne Arundel County Tax Map 15, parcel 581

This represents the legal boundaries of the property.

Identify all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri M. Marsh
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organization	Anne Arundel County Historical Sites Survey	date	September, 1997
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street & number	2664 Riva Road / P.O. 6675	telephone	(410) 222-7441
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city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

AA-1000

Built 1932

**Queenstown School (alternatively, Sunnyside School)
Severn, Anne Arundel County, Maryland**

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Education

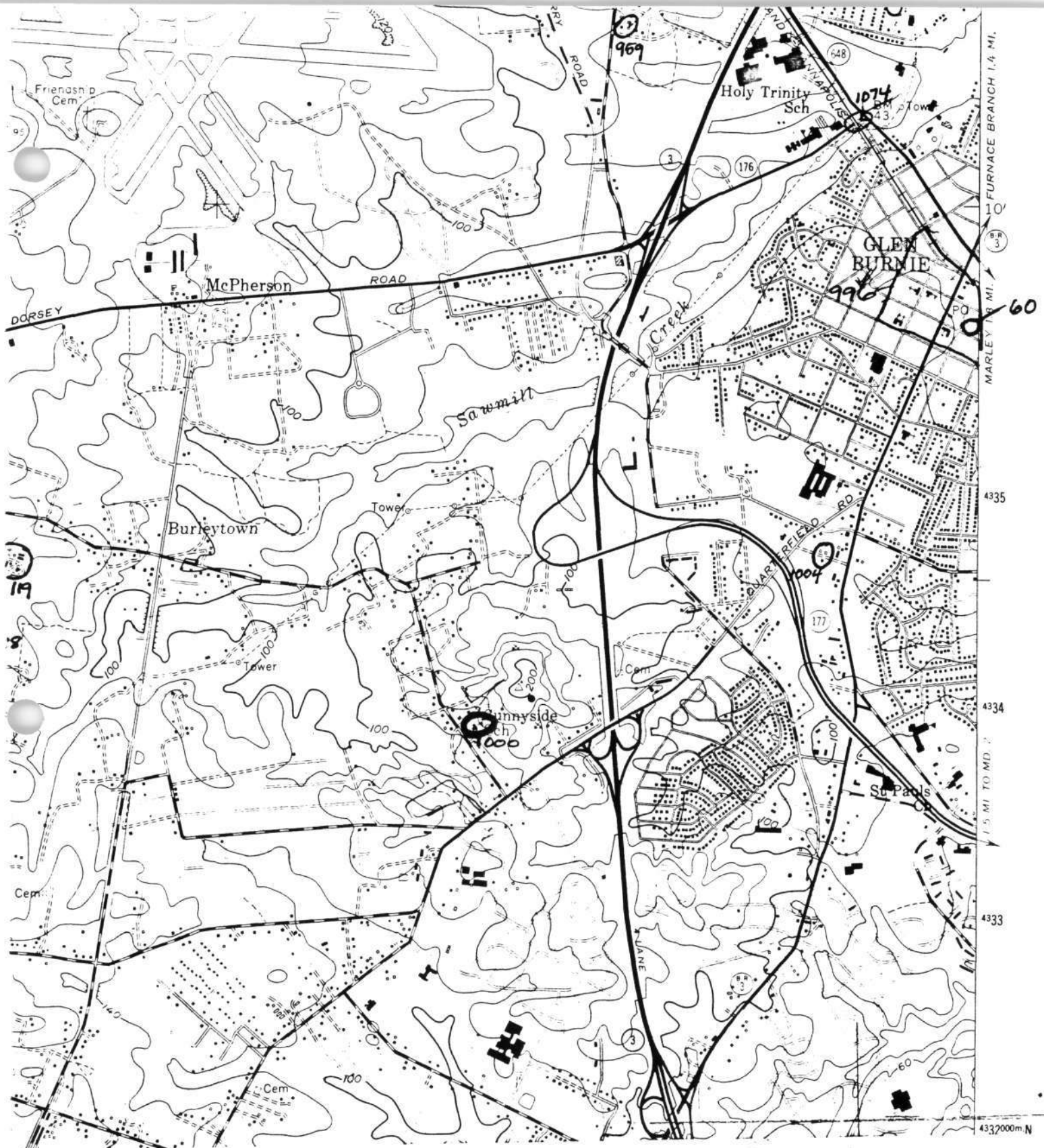
Resource Type:

Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: village

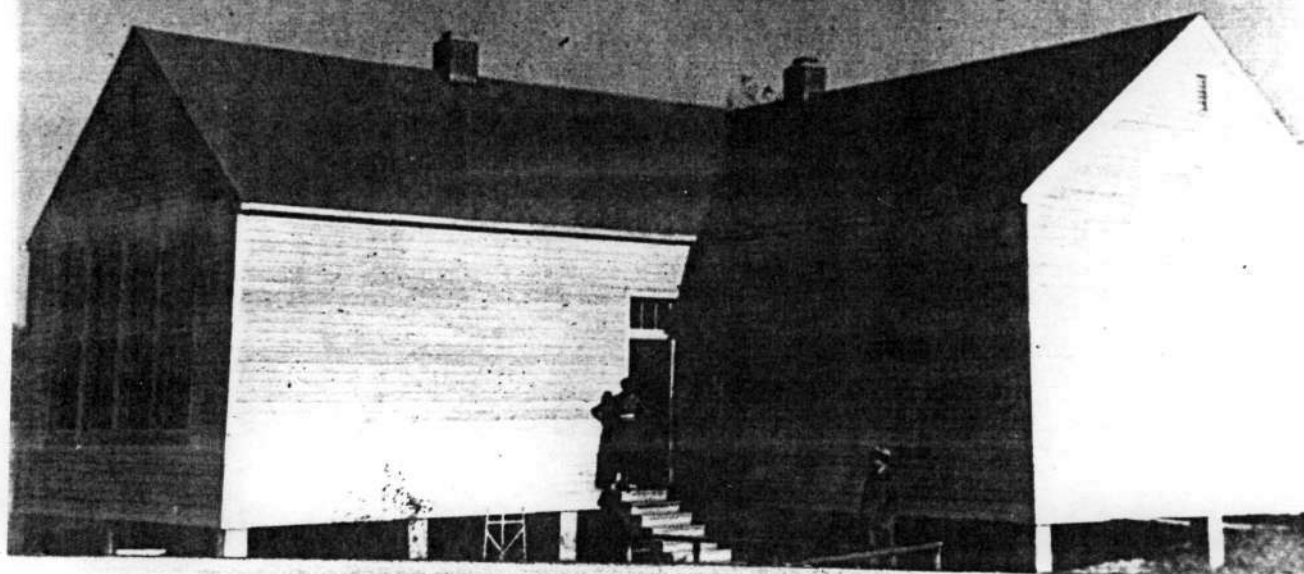
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): African-American school

Known Design Source: Community School Plans, published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund,
Nashville, Tennessee.



RELAY
 USGS 7.5 minute series
 Scale: 1:24,000
 1957, photo revised 1966 and 1974

Site Number: AA-1000
 Site Name: Queenstown (Sunnyside) School
 Location: 430 Queenstown Road, Severn



QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown School as it appeared in 1939.



AA-1000

Queenstown School (Seaside School)
A Rosenwald Design

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Photo By ShERRI MARSH

Oct. 1996

Negative at:

Front. (south)

Photo 1 of 4

MANUFACTURED
BY KODAK
THIS FILM IS
MANUFACTURED
BY KODAK



AA-1000

Queenstown School (Sunnyside School)

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Photo By Sherri MARSH

October 1996

Negative at:

~~WW~~ perspective

photo 2 of 4



AA-1000

QUEENSTOWN (Sunny Side) School

- A Rosenwald School

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MARYLAND

Photo By Sherri M. Marsh, Oct. 1996

NEG. AT:

NE PERSPECTIVE

Photo 3 of 4



AA-1000

Queenstown School (Sunnyside School)
- A Rosenwald Design

Anne ARUNDEL CO, Maryland

Photo By SHERRI MARSH
Oct. 1996

Negative at:

Outbuilding (camera facing west)

Photo 4 of 4